

INTERNATIONAL EXTRADITION ENFORCEMENT ACT

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- **It gives power back to victims and their families.**
An official process will be created through which victims and families can lobby to penalize a country which has refused to return fugitives.
- **It gives State and Local authorities a voice in the process.**
Under this legislation, the Department of Justice will create a process through which state and local authorities can formally, publicly protest the handling of an extradition case by a foreign government. More than five protests against a certain nation within a two-year period would trigger sanctions. State and Local authorities may also rest assured that their case will be made known to Congress through the annual reporting process.
- **It provides incentive to foreign nations to cooperate with U.S. extradition requests.**
The loss of aid, or perhaps even the mere threat of a vote in Congress over the issue of 'extradition cooperation' may help further along any pending extradition requests.
- **It strengthens penalties for criminals who run from justice.**
Currently, the maximum sentence under federal sentencing guidelines for 'flight to avoid prosecution' is only 5 years. This bill would increase that to 15 years. This will allow the courts to consider a more severe penalty for individuals who attempt to or succeed in leaving the country.
- **It creates penalties for providing financial assistance to criminals with the intent to aid the resistance of a U.S. extradition request.**
This bill will prevent a situation similar to the one which occurred in our Congressional district, where an alleged conspirator to a murder allegedly provided financial assistance to the suspect who had fled the country, in order to prevent his return and, ultimately, his testimony.
- **The annual report created by this legislation will keep Congress informed about ongoing problems with international extraditions.**
Not every extradition case receives national coverage like the Del Toro, Sheinbein, or Einhorn cases. A comprehensive report will help Members of Congress understand the severity and frequency of the problem.
- **The reporting requirement will force the Administration to look at the extradition problem collectively, instead of on a case-by-case basis.**
Some of our extradition problems are the result of outdated or non-existent extradition treaties, which the Administration should negotiate or repair before criminals can use these loopholes to their advantage.